

**Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health
April 13, 2005**

**“Addressing the Global Tobacco Epidemic”
Overview of Global Tobacco Use and Prevention — Presentation Notes**

Global Surveillance

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Dr. Asma talked about the evolution of the current global tobacco surveillance system including the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), Global School Personnel Survey and Global Health Professionals Survey. The fundamental principles behind the development of such a system were to work in partnership to develop a consistent survey methodology, field procedures and data management techniques in a cost-effective manner. This system enables the monitoring of the FCTC articles; development, monitoring and evaluation of tobacco control programs; and the dissemination of data to expand the science base.

Dr. Asma described the GYTS. Topics covered are: prevalence and consumption; knowledge and attitudes; access, availability, and price; media and advertising exposure; secondhand smoke exposure; cessation; and school curriculum. The GYTS is currently active in 164 countries with 1.8 million students participating. 40 countries have implemented it more than once. Some of the key findings of the GYTS:

- 1 in 7 students smoke cigarettes
- 1 in 4 smokers first tried cigarettes by age 10
- 2 in 3 smokers want to quit immediately
- Half of students have been exposed to smoke in their homes
- 80% of students had seen tobacco ads.

Dr. Asma continued by describing how the GYTS is used to monitor various FCTC articles and to develop and monitor tobacco control programs. An example provided was the change over time in the acceptance of a smoke free policy in the Philippines.

The Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS) and the Global Health Professionals Survey (GHPS) are two other components of the global

tobacco surveillance system. The purpose of the GSPS is to collect information from school personnel concerning their tobacco use and tobacco-related school policies and programs and covers topics such as tobacco use, knowledge and attitudes, school policy and school curriculum. The purpose of the GHPS, currently being piloted in 10 countries, is to collect information from third-year students attending dental, medical, nursing, and pharmacy schools, concerning their tobacco use and their tobacco-related school policies and programs. Topics include tobacco use, knowledge and attitudes, exposure to secondhand smoke, cessation and school curriculum and training.

Dana Shelton recognized and introduced Dr. Richard Carmona, U.S. Surgeon General, who joined the meeting during Dr. Asma's presentation. The next speaker was then introduced.